

INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

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Telephones 56-8222-27 (6 lines)

208, BARRACKPORE TRUNK ROAD
CALCUTTA-35

No. *Mio/H/215.*

India.

October 14, 1957.

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

Your letter is most welcome. I had been trying to fix things, but my boss, Professor Mahalanobis, has been out of India, and has only recently returned. However as Bhabha has fixed your time, the question of foreign exchange does not arise. I have heard nothing from Bombay : this is unfortunately typical of India.

We will meet you at the airport here, and give you bed and board. An automobile will be at your disposal. I will fix a lecture for you in Calcutta on the evening of Friday Nov. 8th. But I would very much like it if you could give one here (five minute's walk from your bedroom) on the morning of Saturday Nov. 9th or Monday Nov 11th . The remaining daylight hours will be at your disposal. I need a lot of information to plan them. So I am asking you a lot of questions.

1. Is there any one here whom you want to meet, or whose laboratory you want to see ? It will be a job to protect you against people who want to show you their laboratories.

2. Would you like to see either of the following, which are, in my opinion, the best genetics and cytology being done here ?

(a) Jute Research Institute. Jute will be nearly over, but other fiber plants are under investigation, and a few genes are to be seen. Anyway you get an idea of high grade agricultural practise.

(b) The cytological work of Dr. and Mrs. Sharma. They say some of the local plants have consistantly fewer chromosomes in their leaves than in growing points, pollen mother cells, etc.

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I am sorry to ask you so much, but as you have only three days we must plan them for you. Let me be clear, by the way, that in my opinion the accomodation here is much pleasanter than in a hotel. You will either be in a flat in the Director's home, or in the Guest House. We will find out your tastes in food. There isn't much alcoholic liquor. By the way, if you touch down at Rangoon, ^uby 50 Burma cheroots (or more if you like them). If you dislike them you can dispose of them here.

I regret this questionnaire. But you can't see much in three days, and I must get a notion of where your interests lie. Of course we could arrange ♀ shopping simultaneous with ♂ botany , or ♂ comparative religion with ♀ bird - watching.

I believe the best job for a geneticist here would be to start clonal propagation of palm trees. If one could get whole groves of trees as good as the best in the country one would get a very high yield.

Yours sincerely,

J. B. S. Haldane
(J. B. S. Haldane)

Dr. Joshua Lederberg,
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